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S&amp;EP:CCJ

## Weather Protection for Pondcrete

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On September 21, 1988, the Rocky Flats Area Office (RFAO) sent Rockwell International (Rockwell) a letter which asked for a management plan for pondcrete in order to prevent further spills at the 904 pad. The RFAO met with Rockwell to discuss the various options. Rockwell responded with a letter dated October 3, 1988 in which several options were presented for preventing spillage and runoff of pondcrete. (Copies of these two letters are attached.).

The RFAO agreed that erection of sprung structures would provide the best solution by preventing precipitation from landing on the pondcrete, protecting the mixed waste from wind dispersion and providing a coved flooring for prevention of runoff. Rockwell determined that twelve structures would be required in order to protect the pondcrete for the three years in which the mixed waste will be on the two asphalt pads based on the estimated rate of reprocessing, repackaging and shipping. The total estimated cost is \$3.6 million for the 12 structures (\$300,000 each.).

Due to the high cost, this project was not immediately supported. However, now Rockwell is finding high nitrates in the B-series ponds as part of the monitoring program for the NPDES permit. The primary source of the nitrates is runoff from the 904 and 750 pads when snow melts or when it rains; the small berms which were constructed around the pads leak and are frequently overtopped. (Another source of nitrates is the interceptor trench from around the solar ponds. Funds have already been allocated to fix this collection trench.)

The presence of nitrates has been confirmed in samples of soil and runoff water in the ditches surrounding the 750 and 904 pads. The rise of nitrate concentrations in the B-series ponds has been tracked by the Environment and Health division of Rockwell. If the present rising trend continues, nitrate concentrations will violate the NPDES permit. This could happen within the next month. The EPA has already threatened to fine us if another violation occurs (BOD violations brought considerable interest from the EPA last spring and summer.)

Because of this increased risk of violating the NPDES permit and because these types of violations risk community uprise, due to the Rocky Flats discharges entering drinking water sources, there is a need to consider special funding for these sprung structures to prevent precipitation from attacking the pondcrete and to prevent runoff from the pads. After the pondcrete has been removed from the asphalt pads, the sprung structures can be removed and used elsewhere. The structures are not buildings; the tent-like materials are coated for protection against ultraviolet radiation. The structures are rounded and are


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supported with an internal metal structure. They are not air support buildings. Los Alamos uses these type of temporary structures for protection of their radioactive waste in storage. A picture of this temporary structure is attached.

I would like to recommend that consideration be given to providing funding for these structures.

Original Signed By

  
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Enclosure